

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter as substantive amendments to claims 1, 2 and 6 are supported by at least paragraph [0042] and Fig. 2 of this application as originally filed. Amendments to claims 3-5 are made to correct minor administrative errors and for consistency with the language of claim 1 from which these claims depend. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 1, objects to the title of the invention as not descriptive. The title is amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion provided in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification, and specifically, to the title, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the construction of at least one feature in claim 1 is potentially unclear and subject to allegedly more than one meaning. Claim 1, and in like manner claims 2 and 6, are amended to remove the ambiguity. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,246,460 to Young. The Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 1, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,148,301 to Sawatsubashi et al. (hereinafter "Sawatsubashi"). The Office Action, in paragraph 8, rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawatsubashi as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patents Nos. 5,506,707 to Segawa, 5,657,100 to Yamamoto et al. (hereinafter "Yamamoto") and 6,355,314 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter "Kubota"). The Office Action, in paragraph 9 rejects claim 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Sawatsubashi as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Yamamoto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Young teaches an active matrix liquid crystal display device of a complex construction (see Fig. 2). Young, however, neither discloses, nor would Young have suggested, a peripheral driving circuit being disposed at least partially within the sealed region, nor does Young disclose or suggest any light shielding film of any construction.

Sawatsubashi teaches a liquid crystal display device having a driving circuit inside the seal boundary (see Fig. 3). Specifically, among the several features disclosed, Sawatsubashi teaches that a shading film 124 is formed on that portion of the upper substrate 102 on which the driving circuit on the lower substrate 101 faces, and has such an area as is larger than those of the gate line driving circuit 113 and the drain line driving circuit 112 (col. 8, lines 2-8). Accordingly, Sawatsubashi teaches the shading film 124 prevents light beams from being admitted on the driving circuit so that the driving circuit does not function erroneously due to light beams. Applicant respectfully submits that, in this regard, Sawatsubashi specifically teaches away from a feature wherein a light shielding film is provided in a non-overlapping arrangement with at least one of the peripheral driving circuit and wiring lines for supplying signals to the peripheral driving circuit.

Claim 1, and in like manner independent claims 2 and 6, recites, among other features, a counter substrate comprising: a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes of the active matrix, and a light shielding film; a seal that forms a sealed region between the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate, the peripheral driving circuit being disposed at least partially within the sealed region ... wherein the common electrode and the light shielding film are in a non-overlapping arrangement with at least one of the peripheral driving circuit and wiring lines for supplying signals to the peripheral driving circuit in plan view. Applicant respectfully

submits that neither Young nor Sawatsubashi teach a combination of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1, 2 and 6, as is noted above.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 5 and 7 are neither anticipated, nor would they have been suggested, by Sawatsubashi for at least the respective dependence of these claims on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable features which these claims recite.

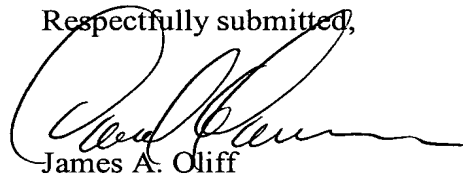
Further, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Sawatsubashi, Yamamoto or Kubota overcome the shortfalls in the application of Sawatsubashi to at least independent claim 1. As such, the combinations of the applied references cannot reasonably be read to have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in at least claims 3, 4 and 6.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-7 as being either anticipated by, or unpatentable over, varying combinations of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III

Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/al

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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